

UMass Lowell Center for Irish Partnerships

**“A shared heritage...a shared
future”**

Friday, November 5, 2010

Agenda

Center for Irish Partnerships Advisory Board Friday, November 5, 2010

- Review of work of the Center for Irish Partnerships
- Mission/Charge of Advisory Board
- Discussion of proposed events
- Brainstorming Session
- Lunch reception with Mayor Cora Harvey



CIP Mission:

To work with Irish partners to create

- a dynamic model for collaboration that will promote and advance UMass Lowell's goals
- to enhance the student experience by providing a global perspective to teaching and research,
- while contributing to Irish interests through exchange and service.



Center Activity to date:

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

- In March 2009, UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan signed a Collaboration Agreement with **Queen's University Belfast (Queens)** in a ceremony with Queen's Vice Chancellor Peter Gregson's in the Great Hall at the Queen's campus in Belfast.
- Queen's is a research-driven university with a dynamic world class research and education portfolio and strong international connections. Areas of research excellence range from conflict resolution and peace studies to drug design and health care. Its Sonic Arts program and its cutting edge studies in nano science place it among the leaders in the United Kingdom and the European community.
- Queens has a world renowned School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, led by the distinguished expert in Irish Studies, Professor Richard English. The school is also home to the International Research Initiative, one goal of which is Irish Studies research. In addition, Queens conducts an annual International Summer School that offers a three week program in Irish history, politics, religion, literature and the arts.
- The City of Belfast presents a unique opportunity for UMass Lowell students to study in the community issues of social conflict and resolution.



Center Activity to date:

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

- Polymer Processing Research Center
- Medical Polymers Research Institute

5 QUB Faculty visited UML in Feb 2009

Currently One UML MS graduate at Queens for Ph.D.
One UML Ph.D. sent to Queens for research
Currently formulating one semester exchange.

Medical Plastics Conference September 2010



Center Activity to date:

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

- **St Mary's**, which is affiliated with Queen's, also offers coursework in Liberal Arts, Education, Irish and European studies and promotes internships in the Belfast community. Chancellor Meehan and a delegation from UMass Lowell were hosted by St. Mary's Principal Peter Finn and Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the Falls Road campus in March of 2009.
- St. Mary's is consistently ranked among the top colleges in the UK in student satisfaction. It offers programs in liberal arts and teacher training.
- Neighboring community organizations in West Belfast such as the Gaitacht Quarter Board and the Commission for Victims and Survivors may provide UMass Lowell students with opportunities for internships and community service.



UML students study in Ireland

- Plans are underway with both Queen's and St. Mary's for UMass Lowell students to spend a **semester of study** in spring fall semesters of 2011. UMass Lowell does not presently offer a program in Irish Studies, but does offer some coursework in Irish history and Irish literature. A new course in Irish Politics is planned for spring 2010. UMass Lowell does, however, offer an excellent course of study in American Studies that may appeal to Irish students interested in seeking greater knowledge of American history, politics, literature, music and the arts.
- In the last two years a total of eight UMass Lowell students spent three weeks at the **International Summer School (ISS) at Queen's**. They studied Irish history, politics, literature, art and culture from Queen's faculty and lived in Queen's residences. They visited important sites including the government buildings. UMass Lowell awarded three (3) academic credits for the program.



Center Activity to date:

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY, IRELAND'S MOST INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITY



Established in 1989
11,000 Students
80 Programs

\$50 million Research Expenditure
2008
Strong Research Centers
INVENT-Commercialization Centre

In July, 2010, UMass Lowell signed a Memorandum of Intent to Collaborate with Dublin City University with the following goals:

- To encourage visits by faculty from each University for the purpose of engaging in research and educational activities;
- To support the exchange of both undergraduate and graduate students;
- To promote links between both institutions in teaching, research and cultural activities;
- To provide opportunities for the development of joint research programs;
- To foster the exchange of academic publications and scholarly research;
- To share experiences and expertise concerning university administration and management



How Do We Grow and Fund Research Collaboration?

Emerging Technologies Conference



Emerging Technologies Conference

- October 19 and 20, 2009
- UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center.
- 6 Professors from Queens (airfare)
- 5 Professors from Dublin City (airfare)
- 12 Professors from UMass Lowell

4 Sessions

Biopharmaceuticals and Bioprocessing
Medical Devices
Nano/Biosensors
Nanomanufacturing



Emerging Technologies Conference

- 190 Attendees
- \$29,000 in registration and displays
- 4 Colleges and 3 Centers
- Sunday-Brunch, Lowell Tour, Reception
- Monday Evening- Allen House Reception



What's Next?

Emerging Technology Conference 2011

Friday, October 7 in Dublin (DCU)

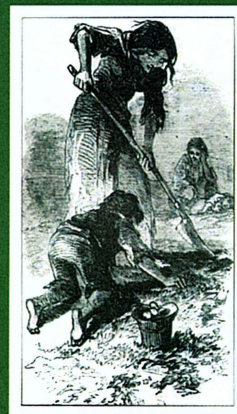
Monday, October 10 in Belfast (Queens)

Saturday, October 8 Belfast- Hockey Game



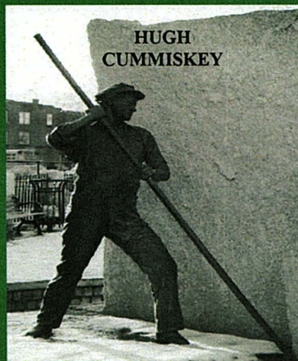
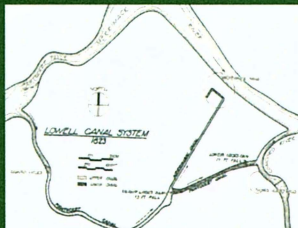
Ireland/Lowell Famine Research

- A social archeological project exploring the famine emigration to America and post-famine culture is in the planning phase, and is tentatively scheduled for summer 2010.
- It will engage students from Queen's and UMass Lowell in social history and some archeological digging in County Fermanagh along its "Famine Road" and in the acre section of Lowell, home to the Irish "Paddy Camps" of the early and mid 19th century.



Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program: Phase I

- Phase I of the project focused on determining whether archaeological strata survived intact at the proposed location for the Lowell excavation site, in the direct vicinity of St. Patrick's Church where the original Irish Settlement was clustered
- A five-day reconnaissance excavation took place August 16th – August 20th, 2010
- Led by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland:
 - Dr. Colm Donnelly
 - Dr. Harry Welsh
 - Ronan McHugh
- Assisted by 6 UMass Lowell students



Why Lowell?

Located at the confluence of the Merrimack and Concord rivers to take advantage of the water, but needed to bring the water from the Merrimack to the mills by means of canals. Someone had to dig the canals...

Canals were excavated by gangs of Yankees working alongside Irish labourers from Boston

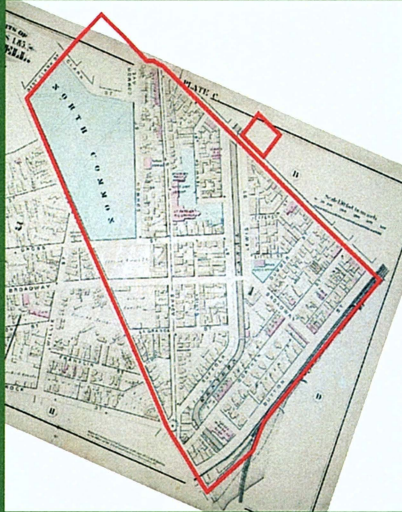
Kirk Boott, agent to the newly formed Merrimack Manufacturing Company, hires Hugh Cummiskey and his team of 30 Irish workers on 5th April 1822 to work on the widening of the Pawtucket canal

As more and more Irish were employed, they settled in an area of land that became known as the Acre – where by 1830 there is a group of 400 Irish residents living there

The Cummiskey Homestead has been located in Tyrone, Northern Ireland.



Why St. Patrick's



St. Patrick's Church was built in 1822 and rebuilt in 1854

The area in front of the church facing Suffolk Street was at that time laid out as a lawn, it remains that way to this day

The area was a green field until 1822, then an Irish Shanty-Town until 1854 then it became a lawn

Has not been built on



RECONNAISSANCE EXCAVATION - AUGUST 2010

Where? The Lawn in front of St. Patrick's

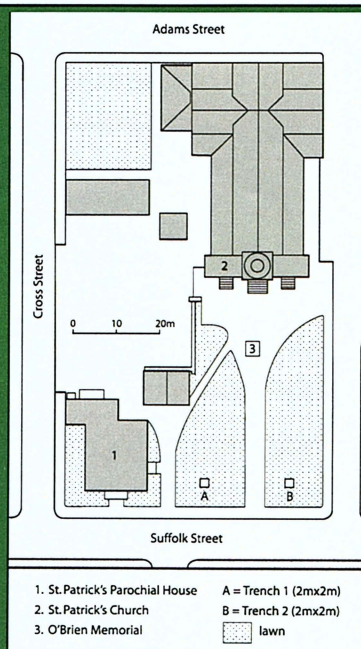
History:

- Up to 1822 – Enclosed Farmland
- 1822-1854 – The Irish Camp
- 1854 to Present – Church Lawn

The Dig:

2 Trenches (2mx2m) to investigate what evidence – if any – survives for the Irish Camp

Looking for evidence of architecture and artefacts associated with the settlement



- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. St. Patrick's Parochial House | A = Trench 1 (2mx2m) |
| 2. St. Patrick's Church | B = Trench 2 (2mx2m) |
| 3. O'Brien Memorial | □ lawn |



Press Coverage of the Excavation

- *Pre-Famine Irish Settlement in Lowell, MA to be Excavated* (IrishCentral.com)
- *Hoping to Unearth Irish History, They'll be Digging Again in Lowell* (The Boston Globe)
- *Irish Heritage in Lowell: Excavation in Progress* (WBZ-TV News)
- *Lowell Dig to Unearth Secrets of Irish Settlers* (The Irish Emigrant, Boston Edition)
- *Famine Irish Shantytown Will Yield Its Secrets* (IrishCentral.com)
- *Irish Archeologists Search For Their Countrymen In Lowell*
WBUR (National Public Radio)
- *Digging Up Roots*
(The Lowell Sun)



RESULTS

Over 1,300 artifacts recovered



Including:

- Rosary Beads
- Clay pipes
- Oyster Shells
- Animal bones
- Nails
- Pottery
- Bottles
- Metal work



WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Report will be prepared on the results obtained during the reconnaissance excavation at St. Patrick's
2. The Cummiskey Homestead in Tyrone: Undertake a full-scale topographic and building survey
3. With the permission of St. Patrick's parish, return to Lowell in summer 2011 to undertake further investigations
4. Secure funding to enable the program to proceed: Annual 2-week excavation program – 1 week in Lowell and 1 week in Tyrone, crewed by students from UMass Lowell and Queen's University



Mission / Charge of CIP Advisory Board

- Develop and Advance the Mission of the CIP through Academic, Social, and Athletic Partnerships throughout All Parts of the Island
- Advise and Participate in CIP Activities
- Build Awareness of CIP
- Help Identify Sources of Financial Assistance

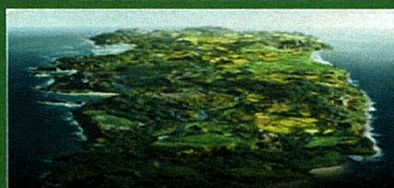


Brainstorming Session

1. Sources of Financial Assistance
2. US/Ireland Emerging Tech Conference
3. Hockey in Northern Ireland
4. Archeological excavation project / exhibit
5. Irish Partnership Night (Tsongas Center)
6. Others
7. Next Meeting



Thank You



Center for
Irish Partnerships

Ann Marie Hurley
Steve McCarthy
Frank Talty
Victoria Drakoulakos

